

Message Text

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53

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 ORM-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

/049 W

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O 251532Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8752

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1746

STATE FOR D/HA CARLIN: ATHENS AND ROME FOR INS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KSREF, CVIS

SUBJEVQ: ASSYRIAN AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES

REF: BEIRUT 1692; GENEVA 1338

1. AS ANTICIPATED, DE JONGE HAS RETHOUGHT PROBLEM, RESTRUCTURED PROCEDURES AND IS NOW CONFIDENT THAT WCC BEIRUT ABLE CONTINUE WITH PROCESSING INTIAL GROUP HERE. HE BELIEVES MUCH OF DIFFICULTY ON FEBRUARY 24 RESULTED FROM RIVALRY BETWEEN IRAQI AND EASTERN EUROPEAN ARMENIAN RENUGEES. FURTHER PANIC IN ASSYRIAN GROUP RESULTED FROM RUMOR, PROMPTED BY TELCONS WITH RELATIVES IN US, THAT AIRCRAFT NEARLY ON THE WAY TO WHISK THEM TO US AND DELAY IN PROCESSING WOULD PREVENT THEM BOARDING.

2. DE JONGE IS NOW ESTABLISHING TWO SEPARATE PROCESSING CENTERS IN AREAS CLOSE TO REFUGEE LIVING QUARTERS, ONE CENTER FOR ARMENIANS, OTHER FOR ASSYRIANS. AS ADDITIONAL PRECAUTION, REFUGEES INSTRUCTED REMAIN HOME UNTIL CALLED FOR IN SMALL GROUPS. DEJONG CONFIDENT THAT REFUGEES
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NOW UNDERSTAND NEED FOR ORDERLY PROCESSING. HE REPORTS

REFUGEES NOW VERY SUBDUED, REALIZING THAT EXCITED CONDUCT OF FEBRUARY 24 MIGHT HAVE COST THEM CHANCE TO MIGRATE.

3. DE JONGE BELIEVES THAT DESPATCH OF US ASSYRIAN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE NOT REPEAT NOT NECESSARY AND MIGHT PROVIDE COMPLICATING FACTOR. WE CONCUR.

4. JONGE ESTIMATES EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR INS PROCESSING TO BEGIN WILL BE MARCH 8. EMBASSY CONTINUING EFFORTS TO FACILITATE PROGRAM. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE PROVIDING ONE EMPLOYEE FOR EACH CENTER FOR FINGER PRINTING, ADVICE ON FS-510 PREPARATION, ETC.

5. FOR THE RECORD, TWO WEAPONS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 2, REFERENCE, WERE HAND GUNS NOT REPEAT MACHINE GUNS.
LAMBRAKIS

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Message Attributes

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